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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 584  
By McNally

A RESOLUTION to urge the United States Congress and the President of the United States to fully fund the modernization of the Y-12 National Security Complex in Oak Ridge, Tennessee.

WHEREAS, the Y-12 National Security Complex in Oak Ridge, Tennessee is a highly valuable resource to this State and the nation, performing work of a delicate nature with extreme precision and employing uniquely skilled and dedicated professionals who have committed themselves to important national security and scientific endeavors; and

WHEREAS, the Y-12 Plant, in conjunction with the Oak Ridge National Laboratory and other federal facilities in Oak Ridge, has developed into an economic development engine, spinning off new businesses and serving as a testing ground for new technologies; and

WHEREAS, the Work for Others Program has brought many federal contracts to Oak Ridge, allowing Y-12 employees to update and hone their skills while producing materials for the U.S. Department of Defense and the U.S. Navy, among others; and

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WHEREAS, the nation's nuclear defense policy is dependent upon Y-12's ability to safely and securely maintain the stockpile of nuclear materials and to preserve the now fragile capabilities of the plant; and

WHEREAS, Y-12 employees have skills in the safe management and handling of nuclear materials that are unduplicated anywhere in the world; these skills have been gained over long periods of employment and training and must be passed on to a new generation of highly educated and skilled workers; and

WHEREAS, while the site managers have been able to restart many operations that had previously been suspended, the continued safe disarmament and storage of weapons being removed from the national nuclear stockpile depend upon Y-12's revitalization; and

WHEREAS, many of the facilities at the plant were built during the development of the Manhattan Project, and much of the equipment is more expensive to maintain than operate; the employees of the 21st century require advanced machinery; and

WHEREAS, modernizing facilities and equipment will better equip the plant's employees to meet and adjust to the demands of the 21st century and the U.S. Department of Energy, to attract more and different kinds of private sector work, and to support and encourage new, private-sector economic development and scientific advancement; and

WHEREAS, the safety of Y-12's employees and the environmental security of the region depend on Y-12's having facilities that meet the current safety requirements of the federal government; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That this General Assembly hereby urges the United States Congress and the President of the United States to fully fund the facilities modernization of the Y-12 Plant in the Fiscal Year 2003 federal budget.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That enrolled copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Honorable George W. Bush, President of the United States of America; the President and the Secretary of the United States Senate; the Speaker and the Clerk of the United States House of Representatives; and to each member of Tennessee's Congressional Delegation.